

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, June 9. 1711.

IT was some time ago that I gave you at large an Account of a Rabble and Tumult at the Parish of *Old-Deer*, in the North of *Britain*, upon the Presbytry of the Bounds, going thither to plant a Minister in that Parish, which was vacant; *Vide Review*, N^o 19.

There has happen'd some such remarkable Circumstances in this Affair since, that I cannot but make it publick to the World, for the more full Conviction of those People, who having been impos'd upon by Shams and Pretences, have been prejudiced against the Church of *Scotland* in general; and whose Prejudice has been so

deeply rooted, that even Demonstration it self can hardly convince them.

How eagerly did these deluded People take in a forged Letter, printed in the *Post-Boy*, to mis-represent this Story? How did they fancy themselves deliver'd from the Load of the Rabbling Story? For it was a Load upon them; they could not justify it, and therefore very loth they were to have it true — To sooth themselves up in the hopes of its being false, like drowning Men who catch at the very Air to relieve themselves, they imbrac'd this Forgery, whose Author durst not set his Name to it; and needs they would have

have it, that the Story in the *Review* was
 alse.

That I printed it from the immediate
 Record; that I had the attested Copy left
 at the Printers, to vouch my Account:
 That it was an Indictment in Process before
 the Criminal Court; all this signified no-
 thing, they that were willing to believe a
 Lye, would not see the Truth, however
 plain. So I left them to go on in their
 Delusion.

Now tho' these Unbelievers are natural-
 ly Obdurate, and I had given them over
 to it; yet I happen to have such a Closure
 upon them now, that I think will, in spite
 of all the Resolution Satan can inspire Men
 with to withstand it, make them submit,
 and own themselves in the wrong —
 And this is, That the People who were
 Guilty, and who by that Indictment were
 charged with it, have Confess'd it — beg'd
 Pardon of the Queen and of the Church,
 and submitted to the Terms of Accommo-
 dation; and this at their own Request, that
 the Prosecution of the Law, which they
 saw would fall heavy upon them, might
 cease.

*The Terms of Accommodation between the
 Heretors of the Paroch of Old-Deer, and
 the Presbytry of the Bounds,*

Are as follows, viz.

First, The *HERETORS* have engaged to
 give all due and suitable Encourage-
 ment to Mr. Gordon, the Presbyterian
 Minister, whom they Rabbl'd and Op-
 pos'd; and to give him the peaceable
 Possession of the *Kirk-Manse, Glebe* and
Stipend, and to defend and maintain
 him in the same, during his Incum-
 bency.

2. They have engaged to refund the
 Charges and Expences the Presby-
 try have been at; and the *HERE-
 TORS* have engaged to cause Four of
 the principal Rabblers to appear be-
 fore the Congregation of *Old-Deer*,
 there to be publicly Rebuked, (that
 is to say, to be set on the Stool of
 Repentance).

3. To cause all the Rabblers, contained
 in the principal Letters, (i. e. *Indis-
 ment*) subscribe a Paper, wherein they
 acknowledge their Sin before God,
 and the Offence given to the Presby-
 try; and Promise and Engage in
 Time coming, to behave and act as it
 becomes good Christians and Subjects,
 and not to Molest or Insult any of the
 Ministers; and this under the Penali-
 ty of a Thousand Marks, Scots, and
 this Paper to be read thro' all the
 Churches of the Presbytry; on which
 Terms all Proceedings were to be dis-
 charged.

Thus the Presbytry has full Satisfaction
 for the Insult offer'd them; and one would
 think this might be full Satisfaction to any
 body in the World, that the Fact was true,
 and that there was such a Rabble at *Old-
 Deer*; if any Man shall doubt it after this,
 I cannot think that such a Man is fit for
 any Body to take Notice of.

It may seem a little wonderful to the
 People in *England*, especially such of them
 as are Strangers to *Scotland*, either why
 such Rabblings and Tumults should be en-
 couraged by the Gentlemen in the North;
 or why they, the Gentlemen, should sub-
 mit to such mean Conditions, after such
 Excesses, and stoop so low to the People
 they had treated with such Contempt.

I shall make no Reflections on the Case
 in Hand, nor say any thing to the Dishonour
 of the Gentlemen concern'd; I think on the
 other hand it is their Honour to give due
 Satisfaction for a Mistake, into which they
 had unadvisedly run themselves. No wise
 Man will be asham'd to own an Error; and
 no honest Man will be asham'd to make Re-
 paration: But I take the Case to be this,
 There has been a mutual double Delusion
 which has affected the People of *Britain*,
 with relation to the Presbyterians in *Scot-
 land*. One of these Delusions affects *Eng-
 land*, the other *Scotland*.

1. That affecting *England*, is, That the
 Presbyterians persecute the Episcopal Party
 there, that they will allow them no liberty
 of Worship, or so much as connive at their
 Meetings — And our extraordinary Man of
 Knowledge,

Knowledge, the *Examiner*, is one of the Asserters of this — and yet, without blushing, can in the same Paper own himself; as indeed it appears, he is perfectly uninstructed in the Matter — So strong are some Men in the Face, while at the same time they are so weak in the Head, since Mr. *Examiner* has said all this in the abundance of his Ignorance; not reflecting at the same time that he cannot prove one Tittle of it — Not remembering, perhaps not knowing, that there are no Penal Laws in *Scotland*, and that therefore no Man can be Punish'd or Persecuted either for hearing a Jacobite, or not hearing a Presbyterian: So much Ignorance! And yet so much Assurance! *Monstrum Horrendum*. *Examiner*.

2. The Error affecting *Scotland* is this, That the Episcopal People there have been led to believe, *I do not say by who, though I could be particular to that also*, That Presbytery is a dying Cause; That the Queen will restore Episcopacy, that it is not Her Majesty's desire the Presbyterian Church should remain; and that the new Ministry in *England* will Countenance them in running down the Presbyterians — They have been told, That in *England* the Friends to Episcopacy have been made believe, That the generality of the People in *Scotland* are for Episcopacy; and that to make this out, they behoved to oblige their Vassals to insult the Establish'd Church, that the Common People may be thought to be Enemies to *Presbytery* — That the High Church Men in *England* are now uppermost, and that they will stand by them, and protect them from Danger in any Trespass they commit — and the like.

On these Encouragements, and such as these, the Gentlemen in many Places have been prevail'd upon to maltreat the Ministers, and oppose the Authority of the Church Judicatories; and in this to expose themselves to the Law, which they have been made believe they should be screen'd from by a Party, who thought they had a governing Influence in *England*.

But as soon as the general Assembly of the Kirk of *Scotland* was sat down, and the Queen's Letter to the Assembly was read, wherein Her Majesty, among other Things, recommends to them the planting vacant Churches with Learned, Pious, and Diligent (Presbyterian) Ministers; the suppressing Vice and Immoralities, and preventing the growth of Popery and Atheism; assuring the said Assembly of Her Majesty's Protection to the Church of *Scotland*, and Her Royal Resolution to maintain all their Privileges secur'd to them by Law.

When to back this, His Grace, Her Majesty's High Commissioner, the Marquis of *Anandale* in his Speech, assur'd them of the same, and of his own Resolutions to use his utmost Interest for the Concerns of the Church; and upon his Grace's hearing of these Rabbles, promised the Assembly to lay an exact Account of those Things before Her Majesty, in order to punish the Offenders, and prevent the like for the Future.

When, I say, the Gentlemen saw this, they easily found themselves mistaken, that Things in *England* had been wrong represented to them; and that their Friends there had no such Interest as was pretended: They find Her Majesty's Intentions quite different from what they had been made believe; they find the whole Stream of the Laws directly against them; that by the Constitution, no dispensing with those Laws can be promis'd; that the weight must fall on them at last; That Her Majesty resolves to leave every one of Her Subjects to the course of Justice, and cannot think of encouraging Violence and Tumult — They then find their Mistake, and that the best step they can take, is to come to Terms with the injur'd Party, and give over the vain attempt of fighting against the Laws, and breaking in upon the publick Peace.

This happy beginning, it is hoped may have a comfortable Effect, and the Church being left to a peaceable pursuit of Her Legal Settlement may go on in a quiet planting

planting the Worship of God in the desolate Highland, and remote Parishes; and let the Lairds and Heretors of those Parts stand Neuter, and leave their Tenants and Dependents to their own meer Choice in

the Worship of God. Tho' Episcopal Meetings were set up in every Parish in Scotland, it would soon appear which way the Inclinations of the People of Scotland were.

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